

# News Release



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## State Parks Begins Public Process, Wants Public Input for Future of Topanga State Park

California State Parks announced today that it will be holding a public meeting on September 29 to begin the process of preparing a new General Plan to guide future use of the park. The meeting will be held at Stewart Hall in Temescal Gateway Park (Sunset Blvd. and Temescal Canyon Road in Pacific Palisades), and all who would like to be involved in the planning process are encouraged to attend.

“This park and the new, lower Topanga section added to this park, are critically important to the people of the State of California and all who live around it,” said Ron Schafer, superintendent of the Angeles District of California State Parks. “It is important that they join us for the beginning of this planning process, to provide input and suggestions to help us make a plan that will be our guide for the use of this park on into the future.”

The purpose for the public process is to develop a cohesive and comprehensive general plan that reconciles the outdated Topanga State park General Development Plan created in 1977. It will incorporate the cultural and natural resources, features and facilities of recent acquisitions, including the 1,659 acres of Lower Topanga Canyon. What State Parks planners intend to do is create a comprehensive plan that gathers up the disconnected parts and viewpoints, corrects obvious deficiencies, considers evolving land-use relationships, and creates a planning structure that reflects this great park as a whole.

To do that, some of the many tasks to be undertaken are as follows: Re-establish a Declaration of Purpose and Vision for the park, define its role in serving regional, statewide, and national recreational, educational and environmental needs, identify critical natural and cultural resources and how to protect and preserve them, and address the many factors surrounding visitor use of the area. The issues of visitor-use include park access, orientation and circulation, future park visitation, trails, camping, public safety and more.

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“Our goal at the end of this lengthy public process is to have a plan that is the best for the future of this wonderful area,” added Schafer. “We must allow for appropriate public use, and protect and preserve the valuable natural and cultural resources found here.”

A website for the Topanga State Park General Plan was established at [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25956](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25956). Planning information, including maps and documents, will be posted to this site throughout the planning process.

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